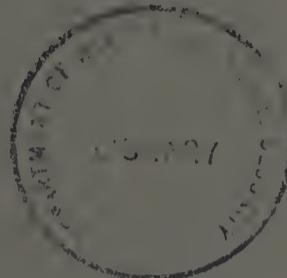


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URBAN DISTRICT OF STREET



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including the Report of the Public Health Inspector)

FOR THE YEAR

1971

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Deryck E.Clare, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., M.F.C.M., M.R.S.H.

LOCUM DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J.Pinching, B.M., B.Ch., M.R.C.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR

N.E.Whitby, A.I.A.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Committee dealing with Public Health Matters

Health and Housing Committee

URBAN DISTRICT OF STREET

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1971

Tel: (Office - Wells 73379)
(Residence - Wells 72643)

Area Health Office,
37 Chamberlain Street,
WELLS.
BA5 2PQ

14th September, 1972

To the Chairman and Members of the Street Urban District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1971 drawn up in accordance with Circular 1/72 of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The vital statistics show the raised birth rate of a vigorous community and a percentage of illegitimate live births significantly less than that of the County or the country as a whole, but stillbirth, general mortality and infant mortality rates were higher. Causes of death remained in much the same order, but deaths by accident were halved compared with the previous year. Notifiable diseases were also halved.

One of the most significant events for Street during the year was the implementation of the Local Authority Social Services Act, establishing a Social Services Department at County Hall, Taunton, and from October, 1971, a Divisional Office at Tothill House, Street, working under an Area Social Services Office at Bridgwater. The Department became responsible for a wide range of services previously handled by specialist sections dealing with the needs of children, the physically and mentally ill or handicapped and the elderly, including Home Help Services.

The environmental health of the town has been admirably described by the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor in his Report for which I am most grateful, and for his support and co-operation at all times.

My thanks are recorded once again to the Clerk, other Officers and Members of the Council and professional colleagues in the town for their ready support.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

D.E.CLAIRE

Medical Officer of Health

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GENERAL STATISTICS, 1971

Area of Urban District (in acres)	3,069
Population (mid-year 1971)	8,170
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 31/12/71).....	2,773
Rateable Value .....(as at 1/4/71)	£344,456
Product of a Penny Rate ...(as at 31/3/71).....	£1,364

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1971

(The figures in general are too small for much importance to be attached to them but certain broad statements can be made).

Population

A mid-year population of 8,170 is given by the Registrar General's 1971 Census, and live births exceeded deaths by 37.

Births

Live Births - exceeded those for the previous year by 15, with a resultant increase in the Corrected Birth Rate to a figure significantly above County and National averages.

Illegitimate Live Births - again totalled 2 less than in the previous year, and the percentage of these was a third of the Somerset rate and a quarter of the National rate.

Still Births - rose to 3, giving a stillbirth rate well above County and National figures.

Deaths

All Ages - rose by 26 above the total for 1970 and the death rate is increased by the Area Deaths Comparability Factor to a higher figure than that of Somerset or England & Wales.

Infant Deaths - totalled 3 against 2 the previous year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate higher than that of the County or England & Wales, but as all these deaths occurred after one month old there was no Neo-Natal or Early Neo-Natal Mortality. It will be seen that the Perinatal Mortality Rate equalled that of the County but was less than the National rate.

Maternal Mortality - again there was none.

Causes of Death

Heart, Cerebrovascular and Other Diseases of the Circulatory System again caused the highest mortality in the town with an increased total of 53 deaths, 14 more than in 1970. Of these, heart diseases accounted for 37 deaths and cerebrovascular diseases for 13.

Cancers - deaths from these increased to 25 from 13 the previous year. As regards site, cancer of the intestine led with 6 deaths, followed by lung cancer with 5 deaths (similar to the previous year) and stomach cancer with 4 deaths.

Respiratory Diseases - again caused 9 deaths and of these bronchitis and emphysema accounted for 4, all in males, and pneumonia for 3, all in females.

Accidents - deaths from these were halved compared with 1970 - both deaths involved a motor vehicle.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The number of cases reported was less than half that of the previous year. Of the 4 infective jaundice cases, two were in one family but the other two were single cases unrelated in time or locality.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING AND HUMAN SALMONELLA INFECTIONS

No cases of food poisoning or salmonella infections were reported.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SEC.47) & AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

The two elderly ladies reported last year passed away in their homes of natural causes, and the amount of support given to the dependant daughter of one of them was stepped up. No court action was required.

MAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1971

(With comparative figures for Somerset and England & Wales where available)

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>							(Provisional)
Legitimate	70	64	134				
Illegitimate	3	-	3				
Totals:	<u>73</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>137</u>			<u>9,079</u>	<u>783,165</u>

Rate per 1,000 population
(Area Births Comparability Factor 1.05) 16.8 17.6 16.5 16.0
(Corrected)

Ratio of local corrected rate to national rate 1.10

<u>ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS</u>						
(per cent of total live births)				2.0		6.0

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	1	2	3		112	8,826
Illegitimate	-	-	-		<u>9</u>	<u>1,072</u>
Totals:	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>121</u>	<u>9,898</u>

Rate per 1,000 live & still births 21.0 13.0 12.0

TOTAL LIVE & STILL BIRTHS

74	66	140	9,200	793,063
----	----	-----	-------	---------

<u>DEATHS</u>						
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>	50	50	100		7,575	567,345

Rate per 1,000 population
(Area Deaths Comparability Factor 1.19) 12.2 14.5 10.5 11.6
(Corrected)

Ratio of local corrected rate to national rate 1.25

INFANT DEATHS

(under 1 year)						
Legitimate	2	-	2		124	12,140
Illegitimate	1	-	1		<u>16</u>	<u>1,586</u>
Totals:	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>140</u>	<u>13,726</u>

(Under 4 weeks)

Legitimate	-	-	-		79	8,121
Illegitimate	-	-	-		<u>10</u>	<u>992</u>
Totals:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>89</u>	<u>9,113</u>

(Under 1 week)

Legitimate	-	-	-		66	6,903
Illegitimate	-	-	-		<u>7</u>	<u>847</u>
Totals:	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>73</u>	<u>7,750</u>

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000						
Total Live births ...	...		22.0		15.0	18.0
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000						
Legitimate Live births ...			15.0		14.5	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			333.0		20.0	24.0

/Contd.....

	<u>Recorded</u>	<u>Corrected</u>	<u>Somerset</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
				(Provisional)

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATES

(deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000
total live births) Nil 10.0 12.0

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

(deaths under 1 week per 1,000
total live births) Nil 8.0 10.0

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

(Still births & deaths under 1 week
combined per 1,000 live & still births) 21.0 21.0 22.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including abortion)

Number of deaths Nil 1

Rate per 1,000 total live & still
births Nil .11

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Fortnightly visits by the Mass Radiography Service Unit were paid to the North side Car Park for the benefit of General Practitioner referrals. The number of these referrals given in the figures below is 294.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Numbers examined	506	478	984
Abnormalities detected	20	17	37

DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES DETECTED

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Active Pulmonary T.B.	-	1	1
Healed Pulmonary T.B.	5	2	7
Bronchial Carcinoma	3	-	3
Benign Tumour	-	1	1
Acquired Cardiac Lesion	3	1	4
Bacterial and Virus Infections of the Lungs	2	7	9
Bronchitis & Emphysema	3	3	6
Abnormality of the Diaphragm	1	-	1
Dorsal Scoliosis	2	1	3
Pleural Thickening	1	1	2

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1971

(As given by the Registrar-General)

<u>CAUSE OF DEATH</u>	Sex	Total all Ages.	Under 4 wks.	4 wks and under 1 year	Age in Years						
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-45-	55-65-	75 & upwards
Enteritis & Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Anaemias	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory Syst.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory Syst.	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other Diseases of	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diseases of Musculo- Skeletal System	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Motor Vehicle Acc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Total ALL Causes	M	50	-	3	-	-	-	3	5	11	17
	F	50	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	11
											31

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD 1967 / 1971
WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR SOMERSET & ENGLAND & WALES

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
1. Corrected Birth Rate					
Street U.D.	18.1	17.3	18.0	15.5	17.6
Somerset	17.7	16.9	16.8	15.1	16.5
England & Wales	17.2	16.9	16.3	16.0	16.0
2. Corrected Death Rate					
Street U.D.	8.86	10.2	10.9	10.7	14.5
Somerset	10.1	10.9	10.8	10.6	10.5
England & Wales	11.2	11.9	11.9	11.7	11.6
3. Infant Mortality Rate					
Street U.D.	14.2	22.6	22.0	16.0	22.0
Somerset	14.0	15.6	16.0	17.0	15.0
England & Wales	18.3	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(5 Year Period 1967 / 1971)

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>				
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	-	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	-	-	4	-	-
Food Positioning	-	-	2	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	4	2	4
Measles	261	162	6	47	15
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	2	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	261	163	18	51	22

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT
1971

WATER SUPPLY

The supply to the Street Urban district proved satisfactory during the year under report.

The quality of the water is also satisfactory. Regular samples were taken during the year for bacteriological and chemical analyses, and the results were as follows:-

23 samples	...	bacteriological	...	satisfactory
2 samples	...	-do-	...	unsatisfactory
4 samples	...	chemical	...	satisfactory.

Natural Fluoride content of the water supplies:-

Millyard supply	...	0.06 p.p.m. as F
Millhead "	...	0.10 -do-
Honeyhurst "	...	0.12 -do-
Cheddar "	...	0.12 -do-

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A survey of sewers is being carried out to ascertain the state of repair and points of entrance of sub-soil water to assist with the design of a new disposal works. It is hoped that towards the end of 1972 the re-laying of the West End sewers and the new sewer to the Brooks Farm area will be put in hand.

The Sewage Disposal Works continue to produce a fair effluent, well within the Royal Commission Standard, but border line in respect of the Somerset River Authority's standard. It is to be hoped the River Authority will take a realistic attitude towards this and not stop building in Street, where houses are needed and the area is one which can and should be developed for residential purposes.

At the request of the Department of the Environment, The Council's consultants are engaged on investigating the desirability of pumping Street sewage to Glastonbury Borough Council's disposal works instead of reconstructing the Street works.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are two Swimming Pools in the area - Greenbank, a privately owned pool but open to the public, and Millfield School pool.

16 samples were taken during the year and all were satisfactory.

FOOD HYGIENE

Milk

There are 18 registered distributors in the area.

During the year 105 samples of pasteurised milk were taken of which 2 were unsatisfactory.

The one bottling and pasteurising plant in the district is maintained at a very high standard.

PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED

No. registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:-

Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	31 (Retail only)
Manufactured Meat Products	...	...	...	4	
Poultry Processing	...	...	...	Nil	

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATION, 1960

The following Food Premises are subject to the above Regulations:-

<u>Shops</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. fitted to comply with Reg.16, i.e. wash-hand basins</u>	<u>No. to which Reg.19 applies i.e. facilities for washing food and equipment</u>	<u>No. complying with Reg.19</u>
Butcher	9	9	9	9
Bakers and Confectioners	4	4	4	4
Cafes	11	11	11	11
Dairies	3	3	3	3
Fish & Chip	3	3	3	3
Groceries	24	24	24	24
Sweet	6	6	6	6
	60	60	60	60

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year one slaughterhouse was closed by the owner, and the second one is temporarily closed.

No slaughtering took place.

CONDEMNED FOOD

1870 lbs. of food was condemned within the area during the year. A large amount of this was due to electrical or mechanical failure in refrigerators and deep frozen food cabinets.

HOUSING

During the year 9 old person's bungalows were completed by the Council and 23 private enterprise houses. The number of new houses under construction is still less than will satisfy demand, but if land was readily available there would be a marked increase in building, as Street is a well sought after area.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 25 Discretionary Grants were approved. This shows an increase over the previous year but although the standard of housing is high in this area, one would have hoped for a greater number of grants applied for.

The Council's programme of improving pre-war houses is proceeding well and the tenants of the improved houses are well satisfied. As in the case of new houses, if we could only get stability instead of inflation, more could be done. At present each contract figure is higher than the previous one with the consequence that one is looking always for ways to keep prices within bounds and this does not lead to satisfaction or to as high a standard as one would like to see.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

102 premises are registered with the Council and during the year routine inspections were made. No case was found which warranted action.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was found necessary but advice was given to developers in several cases.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

No action was found necessary under this Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1961

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

<u>Premises</u>	<u>No.on Reg.</u>	<u>Inspec+ions</u>	<u>No.of written notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	25	82	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total:	29	86	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found</u>					<u>No.of cases in which prosecutions were insti- tuted</u>
	<u>Found died</u>	<u>Reme- died</u>	<u>Referred To HM Insp.</u>	<u>By HM Insp.</u>		
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent. (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-						
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other offences against the Act
(not incl. offences relating to Outwork) - Nil

No. of Outworkers required by Section 133(1)(c) ... Workers - 207

CARAVAN & CAMPING SITES

Nil return.

RATS & MICE

63 properties were treated for rats and mice in addition to regular treatment of the dumps, sewage works and sewers.

There was a noticeable increase in the number of infestations this year.

CEMETERY

36 burials took place during the year and there is adequate land for the foreseeable future.

The newly constructed Garden of Rest is gaining in popularity.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT

Action was taken to remove several derelict cars and deposited rubbish in hedgerows and ditches. It is most disheartening to find that, in spite of adverts in the press and on radio and T.V., the amount of litter deposited in the streets and hedgerows does not decrease. This selfishness and lack of discipline is probably a reflection on the loss of pride we have in our country: and until the young folk are taught this in school again, I do not think we shall see an improvement in spite of legislation.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Council and staff for their support and encouragement during the year.

N.E.W.

